

The following claims are in the case, as previously presented:

1. (currently amended) A method for increasing the initial assay throughput of a clinical analyzer wherein the analyzer is initially configured such that whichever operating resources within the analyzer are throughput limiting, those resources may be incrementally added to the analyzer in order to increase throughput as incoming assay demand increases.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the initial assay throughput is limited by the availability of assay reagent resources.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein additional assay reagent resources may be added to the analyzer in a first increment such that the initial assay throughput is increased by about 50%.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein additional assay reagent resources may be added to the analyzer in first and second increments such that the initial assay throughput is increased by about 50% and by about 33%, respectively.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the additional assay reagent resources comprise a reagent storage area and at least one reagent aspiration and dispense arm.
6. (canceled)